

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 998.247

Manuscript Collections

Edward Newton Civil War Correspondence Collection

Letters, 1862-1865

Abstract: Five letters written by soldier Edward D. Newton during the Civil War to his family members. Transcriptions included.

Extent: 5 letters

Physical Description: Paper

Alternative Formats: TIF, JPG

Location: Missouri State Archives

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder]; Letters, 1862-1865; RG998.247 Edward Newton Civil War Correspondence Collection; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift with deed; Accession #1996-0148

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 04/13/2017. Last updated by EW on 07/29/2022.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Edward/Edmond D. Newton (1831-1881) was with the 85th New York Infantry Band as a musician throughout the Civil War. He wrote letters to his siblings Mary and Darius, five of which have been donated to the Archives. The letters chronicle his time with the regiment near the James River in 1862 and then in Fort Reno, Washington, DC. Two of the letters mention President Abraham Lincoln, and one is especially noteworthy for its account of Lincoln's funeral

procession in the Capital. Sometime between 1865 and 1870, Newton moved to Caldwell County, Missouri. He died in 1881 in Caldwell County.

Additional Descriptive Information

Other Finding Aids

MS296 William J. Wooden Civil War Correspondence Collection

MS456 James Sullivan Civil War Collection

RG133 Adjutant General

Related Material

A transcription of Edward D. Newton's Civil War service card can be found on the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers Database online here: <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers-detail.htm?soldierId=4A6CBDBE-DC7A-DF11-BF36-B8AC6F5D926A>. A summary of the 85th NY Inf.'s activities is here: <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=UNY0085RI>.

Letters, 1862-1865

Extent: 5 Letters

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

All five letters were transcribed by the donor Mr. Paul Doll and the transcriptions are included in the folder with the original letter. TIF images of the originals are available on Manuscript DVD #1 in Reference. The letters and transcriptions by the MSA are also available through the Missouri Digital Heritage Civil War in Missouri collection online here:

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll39>.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	66	1	Written to Edward's brother D.A. Newton of Bolivar, NY. Describes the company's activities over the last few days.	06/30/1862 to 07/05/1862
	66	2	Addressed "dear Mate," but envelope is for his sister Miss Mary Newton of Bolivar, NY. At this time, Edward was in Fort Reno, Washington, DC. He is asking for certain supplies to be sent to him and asks for more letters. Mention of the military band.	01/09/1865
	66	3	Written to Edward's sister Miss Mary Newton of Bolivar, NY. This letter is similar to the one above.	01/31/1865
	66	4	Written to Edward's sister Miss Mary Newton of Bolivar, NY. The letter describes a brief encounter he had with President Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln.	02/13/1865
	66	5	Written to Edward's sister Miss Mary Newton of Bolivar, NY. The letter describes the funeral procession for President Lincoln. He also asks his sister again to send supplies.	04/20/1865